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# NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



## INSPECTION SAVES FARM FIRE LOSSES

**IOWA**—Farm property inspections by insurance companies have definitely contributed toward a reduction in the number of building losses in Iowa.

**INDIANA**—Inspections of 1,049 farms, in 1953, showed that overfusing occurred on 41 percent of the farms in Indiana.

**NEW YORK**—Inspections, in 1950, showed that fuses of too high amperage were being used on 49 percent of the farms in New York.

**MICHIGAN**—Lightning accounted for 35 percent of the claim payments in Michigan in 1954 of a large farm mutual insurance company.

## FARM FIRES COST \$157 MILLION IN 1954

Reports for 1954 from 274 farmers' mutual fire insurance companies indicate that farm fire losses amounted to about 13 percent more than was paid by these same companies in 1953. Based on these data United States farm fire losses were estimated at \$157 million in 1954. The 13-percent increase for 1954 was greater than for any year since 1948.

PREPARED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN COOPERATION WITH  
THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



# 3 DON'T GIVE FIRES A

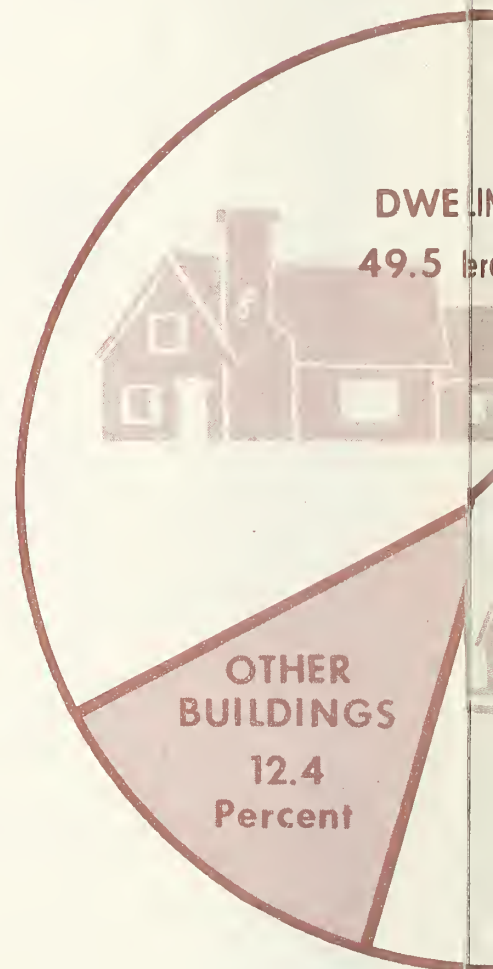
## in your HOME...

### CAUSES OF FIRES IN FARM DWELLINGS

Based on an analysis of farm dwelling fires where the cause of fire was known.

	Percent
Heating, cooking and other equipment, defective or overheated.....	19.7
Gasoline or kerosene, careless use of.....	14.5
Chimneys, flues defective or overheated.....	14.5
Sparks from chimneys.....	13.2
Electrical faults.....	11.3
Lightning.....	7.7
Careless smoking.....	5.2
Children and matches.....	4.2
Gas explosions.....	2.6
Grease, paraffin on stove.....	1.9
Other known causes.....	5.2
	100.0

SOURCE Fire Record Bulletin FR 54-6, National Fire Protection Association.



### FIRE PREVENTION IN YOUR HOME

**Chimneys, heating and cooking equipment**—Rebuild defective chimneys. Clean heating system and chimneys at least once a year. Repair and replace any worn parts of heating system or cooking equipment.

**Flammable liquids**—Carelessness in use and handling means disaster. Do not use to hasten or boost fires in stoves, ranges, or fireplaces.

**Electricity**—Do not overfuse your electrical system. Never use substitutes for fuses. Replace or repair defective electrical appliances.

**Lightning-rod system**—Inspect. Replace rods or wires that are damaged or worn. Be sure ground connections are secure.

**Matches and careless smoking**—Keep matches away from children. Smoke only in appropriate places. Cultivate careful smoking habits.

**Rubbish**—Clear out rubbish. Burn debris outdoors only on still, damp days, preferably after 4 p. m.

DISTRIBUTION  
FARM FIRES  
BY KIND OF CAUSE

Source: Country Fire Protection Association  
Henry Giese—low Ag.

# PLACE TO START!

## ...on your FARM

### CAUSES OF FIRES IN BARNS AND OUTBUILDINGS

Based on an analysis of fires in barns and outbuildings where the cause of fire was known.

	Percent
Spontaneous ignition.....	27. 2
Electrical faults.....	21. 3
Lightning.....	10. 3
Defective or overheated heating equipment.....	10. 2
Gasoline or fuel oil, careless use of.....	5. 1
Incendiary, suspicious.....	5. 1
Tractors, backfire, fuel spill, etc.....	4. 4
Friction sparks from machinery.....	3. 7
Careless smoking.....	3. 7
Children and matches.....	3. 7
Other known causes.....	5. 3
	100. 0

SOURCE: Fire Record Bulletin FR 54-6, National Fire Protection Association.

### FIRE PREVENTION IN YOUR BARN AND OTHER SERVICE BUILDINGS

**Spontaneous ignition**—Be sure hay is well cured before storage. Place hay in the mow evenly, in layers. Ventilation flues in haymows help prevent heating.

**Electricity**—Watch for frayed insulation, loose or sagging wires and fixtures. Use 15 ampere fuses on lighting circuits. Turn off electricity before making any repairs.

**Lightning**—Rods of the right size and material properly installed and maintained on every farm building will eliminate this particular fire hazard.

**Flammable liquids**—See that gasoline, kerosene, and other flammable liquids are stored 50 feet or more from major buildings. Such material should be stored underground or in a locked building. Mark such places with warning signs. Remember! Gasoline vapors are highly explosive. And they settle to the ground where you may not smell them.

**Smoking**—Do not smoke in or around barns or other service buildings. Post "No Smoking" signs.



### TION OF DAMAGE F BUILDING

aste in Iowa (1947-51)

Agr. Expt. Sta. 1954

# FIRE PROTECTION for YOU...



**TELEPHONES**—More and more farms are getting telephones. In 1940, 25 percent had telephones; in 1950, 38 percent; and in 1955, 45 percent. And more telephones are on the way.



**RURAL FIRE PROTECTION**—Community firefighting equipment is vital to farm and home security. Rural firefighting companies are increasing in number.

Farms with telephones near fire stations may be entitled to fire insurance rate reduction, especially if they have—



**WATER SUPPLY FOR FIREFIGHTING**—More than 627,000 farm ponds have been designed for livestock production and soil and water conservation. Nearly 86,500 of these farm ponds were built in 1954. Reports show that 164,000 farmers in 2,500 counties received assistance in 1954 from the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the land-grant colleges in planning for water storage facilities. For fire protection locate such water supplies close to farm buildings. The firetruck may not carry enough water to put out a fire.

## ...and your CHILDREN



Teach them commonsense firesafety rules. They must learn by instruction and good example not to take matches and other incendiary articles near hay, straw, or underbrush, or near engines or fuel. Children also must be impressed with the danger of gasoline and kerosene vapors. Insist that all toys given to children be firesafe—incapable of causing fire, shock, or explosion.

**These United States Department of Agriculture publications will also be helpful:**

Protection of Buildings and Farm Property From Lightning, Farmers' Bulletin 1512.

Fire Safeguards for the Farm, Farmers' Bulletin 1643.

Safe Use and Storage of Gasoline and Kerosene on the Farm, Farmers' Bulletin 1678.

Fire Resistant Construction on the Farm, Farmers' Bulletin 2070.

Fire Departments for Rural Communities, Leaflet 375.

Protecting the Forest From Fires, Agricultural Information Bulletin 130.





